

**VERY IMPORTANT.**  
**Return of Hooker's Army to their Camps at Falmouth.****Artillery and Trains All Safe.**

Our Loss in Killed and Wounded from 10,000 to 12,000.

The Rebel Loss Estimated at 20,000.

**OPERATIONS OF STONEMAN'S CAVALRY.**

They Destroy All the Railroad Bridges Up to Within Five Miles of Richmond.

**INCIDENTS OF THE BATTLE FIELD.****THE KILLED AND WOUNDED.****Our Special Correspondence from the Rebel Capital.****The Rebel Accounts of the Battle of Chancellorsville.****GENERAL LEE'S OFFICIAL DESPATCH.****THE CORRESPONDENCE OF MR. S. M. CARPENTER.****UNITED STATES FORD, May 6-8 A. M.**

Yesterday morning the trains were all ordered back to camp, and by dark the wagons, extra caissons, pack mules, &c., were at Falmouth. The wounded were hastily removed from the hospitals and sent to Washington, leaving nothing on the other side except our infantry and artillery.

About five o'clock it commenced raining. The water fell in torrents for over an hour, deluging the roads, tearing up the corduroys, sweeping away bridges and threatening the destruction of the pontoons. The river rose with great rapidity and soon overflowed the ends of the pontoons, rendering crossing impracticable. The upper pontoon was taken up and used in lengthening out the others, and after several hours of very hard labor the bridges were once more ready.

Fine bougts were spread upon the pontoons to prevent the noise of crossing, and about midnight the troops commenced falling back. The first corps was the first to cross, and is now nearly all over. The Third corps remains in the intrenchments to cover the retreat. It is hoped that the army will reach this side before the enemy discovers the retreat; but cannonading has commenced quite fiercely at the front, and a desperate battle is not an improbable event.

We can doubtless retire across the river without serious loss; but if discovered in our attempt the struggle will be fierce. Unmolested the troops can get over by noon.

The roads are in a horrible condition—almost as bad as when General Burnside foundered here last winter. Our quacks are lying in the woods, but ambulances are coming up to remove them.

There was no fighting yesterday of any consequence. The sharpshooters were quite active, and the artillery opened occasionally; but results were unimportant. The enemy has evidently massed his army on our right, with a view, it is believed, of crossing above and attacking us on the flank and rear. The high water, however, will frustrate that movement.

Three pontoon trains are down near Hamilton's crossing, and some fears have been entertained that the rebels would make a demonstration across the river below Fredericksburg.

A great number of our wounded have fallen into the hands of the enemy. Our dead on the battle field of Sunday are still unburied, and the wounded are undoubtedly dying in great numbers for want of attention. Dr. Johnson, Medical Inspector of the Army, has volunteered to go over with a corps of surgeons and take charge of our wounded. He will probably be sent across as soon as practicable.

General Hooker is very much depressed. Last night he held a consultation with his commanding generals, in which it was urged that a longer stay in his present position would prove unsafe for the army. A hasty return to our camps is imperative.

The rain is falling heavily and the river rising with great rapidity.

**THE LATEST.**  
**FALMOUTH, May 6-10 A. M.**

Three bridges were swept away on the railroad from Aquia last night. Building parties were at work all night, and the trains are again running.

It is rumored that the enemy's cavalry has crossed over upon the Northern Neck, and is advancing cautiously towards this place. A force has been sent down to oppose them. Everything is quiet on the other side. The river has risen over ten feet and is still rapidly rising.

Heavy cannonading is heard in the direction of the United States Ford.

**OUR WASHINGTON DESPATCHES.**

**WASHINGTON, May 6, 1863.**

Hooker's campaign is a failure, just when it was supposed to be on the very eve of a brilliant success. It is understood that he was outgeneraled by Lee and his army outnumbered by the rebels. Still a retreat was not looked for, but Hooker himself seems to have lost confidence in success, particularly as Sedgwick's corps had not joined him, and thus was induced to give the order to retreat. The army retired over the United States Ford and Banks' Ford. The backward movement commenced at ten o'clock last (Tuesday) night, and before daylight this (Wednesday) morning the artillery and mule trains had all crossed, and the infantry was still crossing. Couch's corps in advance. The enemy were not able to harass our army in its retreat very materially. Their sharpshooters tried to pick off the artillery horses and mounted officers, and wherever they could bring guns to bear upon us they did so; but our artillery usually dislodged them before they could inflict much damage. The army is now supposed to be on its way back to its old camping ground. There is no apprehension that the enemy will cross the river in pursuit, except, perhaps, some of its cavalry.

**THE FAILURE OF SEDGWICK TO JOIN HOOKER.**

The failure of Sedgwick's corps to effect a junction with the main army, as had been designed, had a considerable effect in causing the backward movement. That was no fault of either Sedgwick or his army. They were sandwiched between Lee and Longstreet, and crushed by overpowering numbers in the direction of Banks' Ford. Here they managed to effect a crossing, but not without fearful loss. They killed and wounded are set down as between five and six thousand. The enemy's loss, it is said, is still larger.

It is estimated that our entire loss in this brief and bloody campaign is from ten to twelve thousand—that of the rebels much heavier. Our dead and many of our wounded had to be abandoned. Our artillery is saved.

There is some speculation here as to whether the junction of Hooker's army with Heintzelman's reinforcements and that of Sedgwick may not stay the retreat. Still, if there was anything to prevent a renewal of the attack, the terrible rains, and the consequent swelling of the rivers, are a sufficient impediment. The troops have suffered greatly from the bad weather.

It now appears that so far as Stoneman's cavalry expedition was concerned it was a complete success.

**OUR ORDERS TO REINFORCE STONEMAN'S CORPS.**  
Before any information had been received of the achievements of General Stoneman in cutting off communication between Fredericksburg and Richmond, and upon the strength of painful rumors in circulation that they had not only been unsuccessful, but had purposely failed to comply with the orders given to them, an order was issued by General Hooker, through General Van Allen, Aid-de-Camp, relieving Stoneman and Averill of their commands, and directing them to report to Washington under arrest. Since the receipt of the intelligence that Stoneman was successful, and has accomplished all, and perhaps more than all, that was expected of him, this order will unquestionably be revoked, and a commission paid to these generals for the execution of a brilliant and dangerous enterprise.

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**OUR RICHMOND, VA., DESPATCH.**

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